

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON BILL NO. **H. 3626**

(Doc. No. 11311ac07.doc)

TO: The Honorable Leon Howard, Chairman, House Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs Committee
FROM: Office of State Budget, Budget and Control Board
ANALYSTS: R.J. Stein, Bryce Wilson
DATE: April 10, 2007 SBD: 2007213

AUTHOR: Representative Vick PRIMARY CODE CITE: 44-7-285
SUBJECT: Heart Patient Safety Act

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:
\$0 (No additional expenditures or savings are expected)

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:
A Cost of Federal and/or Other Funds (See Below)

BILL SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 492 amends Title 44 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, by adding Sections 44-7-285, -295, Section 44-43-730 and by amending Section 17-5-530(A) relating to hospital staffing requirements in a facility that performs cardiac catheterizations. The Bill requires such facilities to have a cardiologist on site 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and requires such facilities to use only full-time and part-time nursing personnel who are directly employed by the facility. The Bill prohibits such facilities from employing contract nursing personnel. The Bill provides that if a patient dies in a hospital, the family has a right to have an autopsy performed. Such an autopsy must be performed by a pathologist who is not affiliated with the hospital in which the person died. The Bill also amends the Section 17-5-530(A) of the code requiring the Coroner's/Medical Examiner's Office to be notified within 24 hours of a patient's death after having undergone an invasive procedure at a health care facility.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:

Department of Health & Environmental Control

The specifics of the Bill apply only to hospitals providing therapeutic heart catheterizations. Any inspections or investigations for regulatory compliance will be absorbed by DHEC's facility licensing staff and current budget. There is no impact on the State General Fund or on Federal and/or Other funds.

Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC)

MUSC estimates this Bill would cost \$500,000 annually in Other Funds to contract outside pathologists to perform autopsies. This estimate is based on performing autopsies at the current volume. If MUSC can not use contract nursing for catheterizations, the number of procedures performed may be reduced thereby impacting Other Funds revenues.

SPECIAL NOTES:

The Board of Economic Advisors is the appropriate entity to address any revenue impact associated with this Bill.

Approved by:



Harry Bell
Assistant Director, Office of State Budget